## **Over 20 yrs of Proven Performance**

1 Billion sq.ft installed every year.

~25,000 miles of welds – that's once around the Earth!!



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#### 13yr old EverGuard 45 mil in Las Vegas



#### **Closer Look Confirms It's In Good Shape**



# Industry Studies with questionable data presentation:

- Many claim they're the best but data shown might be "cherry picked"
- One competitor's sell sheet shows samples failing at different durations (Testing at 275F)
- There is a competitor's study that is incomplete... only showing results of certain samples for certain tests; not every sample in every test
- There is a study showing quantity of ingredients in their membrane, without showing if/how it affects membrane performance
  - Claiming more total ingredients is better; and ignoring ingredient quality
- Some studies make blanket claims of superiority without showing actual test data
- One study suggests that cracking in heat aged samples shouldn't be the only mode of failure to look for; weight loss should also be monitored.

Take away = all studies need to be reviewed with a critical eye for inconsistencies and validity.

#### **Perceived Bias...**



## **Ideal Study**



## Until Now...



## About SRI

Led by Rene Dupuis

- Highly respected; recognized as very independent
- Very active in the MRCA and NRCA
- Sits on several ASTM roofing committees
- Material testing of roofing products for building owners, industry associations, and other consultants.
- Factory Mutual Contractor Approval Standard TF Committee
- Has served as an NRCA Gold Circle Award judge since 1997.
- SRI is recognized as being among the nation's leading structural engineering experts





# **Extensive Sampling**



## What We're Talking About... In Context







#### Not a Big Difference in Physical Properties...



#### Not a Big Difference in Physical Properties...



# **Thickness Above Scrim**



#### 60 mil Thickness Above Scrim



ASTM min=18 mils on 60 mil

# Thickness – Total

- Everyone's the same!

#### Thickness over scrim

– No clear winner; differences are very small!

## **Extreme Heat Aging 275°F**

- Samples were removed periodically and measured
  - Samples were bent over a 3" mandrel
  - 7x eyepiece was used to see if there was a failure
- 3 samples from each sheet were tested
  All samples were taken from 30", 60", and 90" across sheet
- Same samples were tested each time...some samples were bent over 22 times before failure

### It's About Performance!

- Heat aging **isn't** just about high heat situations
- Xenon Arc isn't just about areas that get high levels of UV
- Accelerated Aging is Established Science!

#### You Want Your Roof to Perform

• So, lets look at the data...

#### • How do we define membrane failure?

## • When it cracks!

#### What Cracking Means...

#### **Test Sample**



#### **Time Before Failure Begins (Cracking)**



Note: Actual roof life will depend on operating conditions, method of attachment, maintenance, and other factors.

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## **NEW Learning From Study**

SRI brought to the table...

- Weight Loss
- It's not just about cracking
- JM has been an advocate of using weight loss

Why Test?	As products weather they lose polymer	
What does it mean?	TPO loses weight when it's not formulated correctly	
How to talk about it?	The more weight you lose, the less material you have to protect your roof	

#### **Competitive learning of eroding membrane**



## Weight Loss Can Lead To...







#### Same Failure Just Not Very Good



#### Inconsistent









30 samples

#### **GAF EverGuard 60 mil**



#### **GAF Extreme 50 mil**



#### **GAF Extreme 60 mil**



#### 2 failure modes...

**Cracking and Weight Loss** 

#### **Doesn't matter which happens first**

Lets look at the weakest link...

#### Time Before Failure Begins (>1.5% wt. loss OR cracking)





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Note: Actual roof life will depend on operating conditions, method of attachment, maintenance, and other factors.

# **Categorizing & Specifying**

TPO Grade	Heat Aging, d	Weather	
	240°F	275°F	Resistance kJ/(m <sup>2</sup> .nm) @ 340 nm
1 – utility grade	224	27	10,080
2 – standard grade	490	90	20,160
3 – premium grade	750	150	40,320

Failure= cracking using 7x eye piece or weight loss > 1.5%

# Conclusions

All TPO exceeds the ASTM specification

Physical properties are all similar

Large differences exist in terms of predicted weathering

GAF has the 3 best TPOs

Extreme is the ONLY high performance TPO

EverGuard outperforms all other regular TPOs